

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012949

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NEA:HHSAUNDERS

S/S- MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012949

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CHARGE'S MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

1. LIBYAN CHARGE AL-GAYED CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO ON JANUARY 17 AND PRESENTED A LIST OF ACTIONS WHICH THE LARG HAS TAKEN OR IS PREPARED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A POSITIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE US. THE FOUR POINTS PRESENTED WERE: LIFTING OF THE OIL EMBARGO, A MUTUALLY AGREED INCREASE IN EMBASSY PERSONNEL CEILINGS, PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, AND COMPENSATION FOR OR PROVISION OF ANOTHER PIECE OF LAND TO REPLACE THE PLOT ON THE CORNICHE WHICH WAS SEIZED. AS THE CONVERSATION PROGRESSED, AL-GAYED MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE ACTIONS (EXCEPT THE OIL EMBARGO) WOULD NOT BE TAKEN UNILATERALLY BUT ARE CONDITIONAL UPON US RELEASE OF THE EIGHT C-130'S BEING HELD IN GEORGIA AND APPROVAL FOR SALE OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO LIBYA- IN RESPONSE TO MR. SISCO'S INQUIRY, AL-GAYED SAID THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OIL EMBARGO DECISION ALSO DEPENDS
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PAGE 02 STATE 012949

ON POSITIVE DECISIONS IN THE TWO ABOVE CASES. HE TOOK

PAINS TO EXPLAIN THE SMALL SIZE AND PEACEFUL NATURE OF
THE REACTOR WHICH THE LIBYANS WISH TO PURCHASE AND THE
FACT THAT THE LARG WILL ENTER INTO A SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT

WITH THE IAEA.

2. MR. SISCO ASSURED AL-GAYED THAT THE PROPOSALS HE
PRESENTED WOULD BE STUDIED IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT AND
THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE A PROMPT REPLY. HE EXPLAINED
THAT THE PUBLIC DIMENSION IS VERY IMPORTANT IN US
POLICY, THAT THE LIBYAN IMAGE IN THE US IS NOT GOOD
AT PRESENT, AND THAT SOME POSITIVE EXPRESSION OF AWARENESS
THAT THE US IS TAKING A LEAD IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE
ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. PUBLIC
AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT
WITH RESPECT TO THE DELICATE NUCLEAR REACTOR QUESTION,
HE POINTED OUT. HE ALSO NOTED THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO
LARG OFFICIALS IN TRIPOLI, WHICH AL-GAYED SAID COULD BE
EASILY RESOLVED IF THERE IS A POSITIVE DECISION ON THE
C-130'S AND NUCLEAR REACTOR.

3. THE UNDER SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT IN HIS REPORT TO
HIS GOVERNMENT, THE CHARGE SHOULD NOTE THAT: (A) USG
WILL STUDY LARG PROPOSALS SYMPATHETICALLY AND IN A
POSITIVE MANNER, AND (B) WE WILL GIVE A PROMPT REPLY.
HE CAUTIONED AL-GAYED NOT TO PREDICT WHAT THE RESPONSE
WILL BE HOWEVER.

4. DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY STUDYING AL-GAYED'S INITIATIVE
AND IS FORMULATING A RESPONSE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS EMBASSY WISHES TO MAKE. OUR
APPROACH WILL BE POSITIVE.
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